

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-11 STRE-00 /115 W
-----096647 140605Z /14

P R 140415Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6078
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE AND STR ELECTRONICALLY

GENEVA FOR TOM SAYLOR

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
SUBJECT: STRAUSS-USHIBA FOLLOW-UP: BEEF TEAM MEETING WITH MAF

1. SUMMARY. IN FIRST MEETING MARCH 13, BEEF TEAM
PRESSED MAF OFFICIALS ON PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
STRAUSS/USHIBA COMMITMENTS ON BEEF QUOTA LEVELS, MONI-
TORING OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF IMPORTS AND DEFINITION OF HIGH
QUALITY BEEF. MAF (MOTAI) ACKNOWLEDGED
3,000 TON HOTEL BEEF COMMITMENT BUT REFUSED TO ACCEPT
CONCEPT OF ADDITONALITY FOR REMAINDER OF 10,000 TON
INCREASE. IN MEETING WITH MAF MINISTER MARCH 14 HE
ALSO TIED ADDITIONALITY TO "MUTUAL EFFORTS TO DEVELOP
DEMAND." INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH MAF WILL CONTINUE IN
HOPE OF OBTAINING CONCRETE RESULTS BEFORE TEAM'S DE-
PARTURE.

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2. BEEF TEAM MET FOR THREE HOURS AFTERNOON OF MARCH
13 WITH MAF TEAM HEADED BY MEAT AND EGG DIVISION
DIRECTOR MOTAI. AT OUTSET MOTAI
STRESSED AGAIN REGRET THAT TIME TO MEET WITH U.S.
TEAM THIS WEEK LIMITED BUT THAT MAF PLANS
SEND TEAM TO U.S. IN APRIL. FOLLOWING FOUR BASIC
ISSUES DISCUSSED: (A) HOW GOJ PLANS TO IMPLEMENT

COMMITMENTS UNDER STRAUSS/USHIBA WITH RESPECT TO BEEF. (B) WHAT IS BASE QUOTA WHICH WOULD BE EXPANDED TO PERMIT ENTRY OF ADDITIONAL 10,000 TONS. C. HOW WILL IMPORTS OF BEEF OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF BE MONITORED AND REPORTED SO THAT BOTH SIDES CAN EVALUATE PROGRESS. (D) HOW CAN WE ARRIVE JOINTLY AT DEFINITION OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF AND WOULD MAF BE WILLING TO MEET WITH U.S. TEAM MEMBER MATSUSHIMA TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DEFINITION, I.E., ONE WHICH COULD REFLECT TYPE OF BEEF MARKET U.S. IS TRYING TO DEVELOP AND WOULD PRESERVE GLOBAL CHARACTER OF JAPANESE COMMITMENTS UNDER STRAUSS/USHIBA UNDERSTANDING.

3. IN LENGTHY EXCHANGE ON A AND B ABOVE, MOTAI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT EXPRESSED IN COMMUNIQUE, QUOTA OF 3,000 TONS OF HOTEL BEEF IS A COMMITMENT RESULTING FROM STRAUSS/USHIBA TALKS. HOWEVER 10,000 TONS IN COMMUNIQUE IS DEFINITELY NOT A COMMITMENT BUT RATHER A TARGET WHICH THE TWO SIDES ARE TO WORK TOWARD WITHIN THE GLOBAL GENERAL QUOTA BY DEVELOPING DEMAND IN JAPAN FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE COULD NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE GENERAL QUOTA FOR JFY 1978 WOULD BE LARGER, THE SAME OR SMALLER THAN IN JFY 1977. ALTHOUGH TEAM REFERRED TO LANGUAGE IN STRAUSS/USHIBA COMMUNIQUE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH CALLED FOR INCREASED IMPORTS IN JFY 1978 AND BEYOND, MOTAI WAS ADAMANT IN HIS REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE CONCEPT OF ADDITIONALITY.

4. TIME DID NOT PERMIT DETAILED DISCUSSION OF MONITORING SYSTEM. IN ANY EVENT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS IN VIEW OF REFUSAL TO DISCUSS BASE QUOTA AND QUESTION OF ADDITIONALITY.

5. MOTAI RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO MAKE HIS TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON GRADE/QUALITY AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MATSUSHIMA BUT SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT DEFINITIONS COULD NOT BE WORKED OUT WITHIN THIS WEEK.

6. MOTAI SUGGESTED THAT TEAM RAISE WITH LIPC MOST OF QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO MAF.

7. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, MOTAI SAID HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET WITH TEAM AGAIN BECAUSE HE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING. HE AGREED AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION TO MAKE

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HIS STAFF AVAILABLE FOR A WRAP-UP MEETING TO GET
TEAM'S IMPRESSIONS AFTER MEETING WITH OTHER ORGANIZA-
TIONS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN
DISCUSSING FURTHER THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THIS
MEETING. THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT MOTAI MAY
APPEAR AT WRAP-UP MEETING BUT THUS FAR THERE IS NO
INDICATION THAT WE WILL HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO OFFER
ON QUESTIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

8. JAPANESE SIDE EXPRESSED EXTREME CONCERN ABOUT POS-
SIBILITY TEAM WOULD HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO
DEPARTURE. MANNION RESPONDED THAT NO PRESS CONFERENCE
PLANNED BUT THAT TEAM WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO RESPOND
TO QUERIES UPON RETURN WASHINGTON. MOTAI SAID HIS
APPROACH WITH PRESS WOULD BE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TALKS
ARE UNDERWAY BUT TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF DETAILS.

9. IN TEAM MEETING WITH MINISTER OF AGRIC. NAKAGAWA
MARCH 14 E/MIN BUTTON MENTIONED AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S
INTEREST IN SEEING THE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE STRAUSS/
USHIBA UNDERSTANDING IMPLEMENTED FULLY AND SMOOTHLY.
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WHILE NAKAGAWA WAS POSITIVE ABOUT COMMITMENT, HE STUCK
PRETTY MUCH TO THE LINE FOLLOWED BY MOTAI MARCH 13,
I.E., 3,000 TONS HOTEL QUOTA WITH ADDITIONALITY UNDER
GENERAL QUOTA DEPENDENT ON JOINT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP
DEMAND. HE DID INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO MAKE HIS
PEOPLE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK.
EMBASSY DISSATISFACTION WITH RESULTS THUS FAR, BEING
MADE KNOWN IN INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH SENIOR MAF
OFFICIALS.
SHERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, MEATS, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO04024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780112-0749
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780369/aaaacgez.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d016ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3331860
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRAUSS-USHIBA FOLLOW-UP: BEEF TEAM MEETING WITH MAF
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d016ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014